

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wapiti Ranger Station

AND/OR COMMON

Wapiti Ranger Station

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

32 miles west of Cody on U.S. 16

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wapiti

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

001

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Park

CODE

029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

(U.S. Forest Service) Mr. Ralph Wheeler, District Ranger, Wapiti District

STREET & NUMBER

Shoshone National Forest

CITY, TOWN

Cody

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82414

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Park County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cody

STATE
Wyoming**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1963

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Survey, NPS

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE
D.C. 20240

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wapiti Ranger Station is a single-story, brown log cabin built in 1903. Originally rectangular, two additions at the rear make the station today a U-shaped structure. Three stone chimneys pierce the roof, one in the original section and one in each addition. The interior is entirely modernized for us as the forest ranger's residence. A brown, split-rail fence, 175'x150' surrounds the cabin, separating it from eight more recent structures built by the Forest Service nearby. The cabin stands a few yards south of the North Fork of the Shoshone River, beneath the slopes of a steep butte. U.S. Route 16 runs parallel to it some fifty yards south.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

W.H. Pierce

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wapiti Ranger Station is the first ranger station built in the United States. As such it represents better than any other building the beginnings of forest conservation in this country, and a national concern for the preservation of our natural resources.

The Shoshone National Forest is the oldest in the nation, having been created by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891. By 1902 the Forest had been expanded to the point where it had to be divided into four divisions. W.H. Pierce, who owned a stock ranch in the area, was appointed Supervisor of the Shoshone division, containing most of the original preserve. Upon receiving his appointment, Pierce built a log headquarters building at Wapiti Ranger Station. The structure still stands, with large additions to the rear and many modern alterations inside.

Prior to 1902, the strips of forest designated by President Harrison were standing not primarily as forest reserves, but as property for a contemplated enlargement of the Park itself. In 1902 the vast expansion authorized by President Theodore Roosevelt created the first true national forest reserve in this country. Wapiti Ranger Station was the first visible evidence of a new era in American attitudes toward the natural beauty of their nation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

J.N. Langworthy, "The Oldest National Forest and Oldest Ranger Station," Cody Enterprise, p. 4, Aug. 5, 1941.
Annals of Wyoming, pp. 380-381.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

~~UNDEVELOPED~~ latitude-longitude reference: 109°36'58"/44°27'57"

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The original Wapiti Ranger Station is part of a cluster of nine Ranger Station structures. It is west of these later buildings and separated from them by a wooden rail administrative fence. The 0.37 acres enclosed provide an unobtrusive setting for the historic structure. The boundaries are therefore defined by the administrative fence as shown by the red line on the accompanying map A, labelled "Wapiti Ranger Station" and dated July 1975. (cont'd.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, NPS

DATE

1/3/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Landmark

Designated: May 23, 1963

Boundary Certified: *George J. ...*

DATE 2/14/79

DATE 10/12/83

DATE 1/25/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Bill ...*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Wapiti Ranger
 Station ITEM NUMBER #10 PAGE #2

Beginning at the southeast corner of the administrative fence surrounding the Wapiti Ranger Station; thence westerly one hundred and seventy-five feet (175') along the administrative fence to its southwest corner; thence northerly one hundred and fifty feet (150') along the administrative fence to a point approximately fifty feet (50') behind the northwest corner of the Ranger Station; thence easterly one hundred and seventy-five feet (175') to a point one hundred and fifty feet (150') north of the southeast corner of the administrative fence; thence southerly one hundred and fifty feet (150') to the point of beginning.

175 feet

N

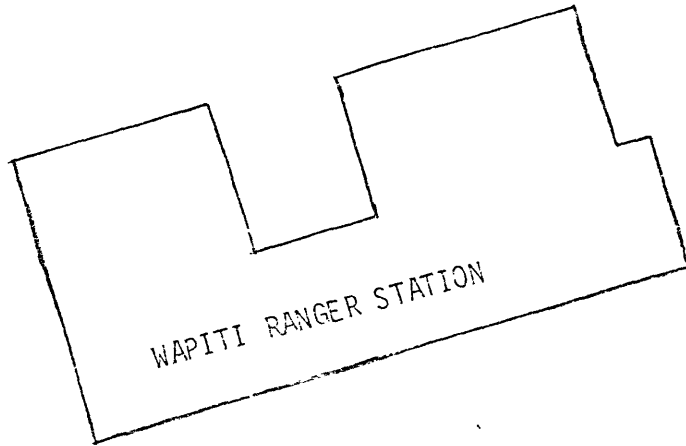
A.

WAPITI
RANGER
STATION

HISTORICAL
SITE

BOUNDARIES

(National
Forest
Service -
July 1975)



WAPITI RANGER STATION

150 feet

ADMINISTRATIVE FENCE

175 Feet

1" = 20'